

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 01279 041214Z

15

ACTION SS-15

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O 041057Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO AIR FORCE II NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1174

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1279

EXDIS

SECSTATE FOR OPERATIONS CENTER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER  
MULDOON

REF: AIR FORCE II 040830Z APR 76

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION SECSTATEINFOAMEMBASSY CANBERRA, KUALA  
LUMPUR, MOSCOW, SINGAPORE, CINCPAC APRIL 3, 1976 AND BEING  
REPEATED FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 1279

EXDIS

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NZ

SUBJ: VICE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON

1. THE VICE PRESIDENT HELD LENGTHY DISCUSSIONS PRIVATELY  
WITH PRIME MINISTER MULDOON. THE DISCUSSIONS WERE RELAXED,  
FRIENDLY AND UNSTRUCTURED, AND WERE GENERAL IN NATURE. THEY  
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PAGE 02 WELLIN 01279 041214Z

COVERED IN BROAD TERMS THE US AND NEW ZEALAND

DOMESTIC SITUATION, DOMESTIC PROGRAMS IN NEW ZEALAND WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO HEALTH CARE AND THE NEW ZEALAND ECONOMY'S HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON GRASS -- MEAT AND DAIRY PRODUCTS. MULDOON DISCUSSED NEW ZEALAND'S RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND USSR, AND SPOKE OF HIS GREAT INTEREST IN JAPAN. HE CHARACTERIZED RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AS GOOD AND SAID HE HOPED TO KEEP THEM THAT WAY. HE CRITICIZED THE USSR FOR INTERFERING WITH NEW ZEALAND'S STUDENTS AND LABOR UNIONS, AND SAID HE HAD TOLD THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR THAT AS LONG AS THE SOVIETS PERSISTED IN THIS KIND OF INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS, RELATIONS BETWEEN NEW ZEALAND AND THE USSR COULD NOT BE ENTIRELY FRIENDLY. THE PRIME MINISTER SPOKE OF THE IMPORTANCE TO NEW ZEALAND OF SOUTHEAST ASIA, AND NOTED THAT EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER TALBOYS WAS IN FACT ON A TRIP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AT THE MOMENT. REFERRING TO HIS ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN FAVORING VISITS OF US NUCLEAR-POWERED WARSHIPS, MULDOON NOTED THAT HE HAD PUBLICLY REITERATED THIS STAND SINCE BECOMING PRIME MINISTER. MULDOON LOOKED FORWARD TO AN NPW VISIT BY A US WARSHIP THIS COMING (AUSTRAL) SUMMER.

2. DURING HIS CONVERSATIONS WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT, MULDOON ALSO SPOKE IN GLOWING TERMS OF THE US LEADER GRANT PROGRAM, SAYING IT WAS A MOST EFFECTIVE PROGRAM FOR GETTING FOREIGN LEADERS TO KNOW "GRASS-ROOTS AMERICA."

3. AFTER THEIR DISCUSSION ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 2, THE VICE PRESIDENT MET WITH MULDOON AND HIS CABINET. THE VICE PRESIDENT GAVE A GENERAL PRESENTATION OF THE CURRENT US DOMESTIC SITUATION, EXPRESSING OPTIMISM ABOUT THE FUTURE PROSPECTS FOR A UNIFIED US FOREIGN POLICY. PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ASKED THE VICE PRESIDENT TO CONVEY TO THE PRESIDENT WARM GREETINGS FROM MULDOON AND HIS ENTIRE CABINET, AND NEW ZEALAND'S WARM FEELINGS FOR THE UNITED STATES. THE ENSUING DISCUSSION WITH THE CABINET FOCUSED ON HEALTH CARE, ENERGY, FOOD AND POPULATION PROBLEMS.

4. FOLLOWING A STATE LUNCHEON, AT WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER, OPPOSITION LEADER ROWLING AND THE VICE PRESIDENT ALL SPOKE, THE VICE PRESIDENT HAD A BRIEF MEETING OF GENERAL NATURE WITH ROWLING.

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PAGE 03 WELLIN 01279 041214Z

5. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION WITH HOWE AND MILLER OF THE VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS SECRETARY CORNER INDICATED THAT LEE KUAN YEW HAD INDICATED HE THINKS IT IS TIME FOR THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE NEW ZEALAND CONTINGENT UNDER THE FIVE POWER DEFENSE ARRANGEMENTS (FPDA) SOMETIME IN THE FUTURE. CORNER SAID HE UNDERSTOOD LEE WISHED SUCH A WITHDRAWAL TO BE DIGNIFIED AND DONE IN A WAY CONVENIENT TO NEW ZEALAND.

HE SAID LEE ALSO WANTED TO CONTINUE CLOSE DEFENSE COOPERATION  
WITH NEW ZEALAND UNDER THE FPDA (E.G. JOINT TRAINING EXERCISES).  
SIGNED SELDEN UNQUOTE.  
SELDEN

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## Message Attributes

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